

First Steps



Program Description:

Public health nurses, behavioral health specialists and a nutritionist provide support, education and case management linkages, referral and advocacy for Medicaid eligible pregnant and parenting women through home or office visits.

Delivery Measures:

- 955 referrals received for the First Steps program
- 1,209 home or office visits provided by staff (156 individuals)
- 365 referrals for High Risk Newborns were received from Central Washington Hospital
- 67 of the newborn referrals were seen by a staff member
- 193 of the newborn referrals had telephone contact with a staff member
- 56 children were screened for Child Find in clinics located in Bridgeport and Waterville

Notes & Updates:

- DOH and DSHS continue to redesign the First Steps program. New paper forms for documentation were implemented at the end of the year and will be updated for 2007.
- The Public Health Nursing Directors are working with DOH and DSHS to standardize the services provided by MCH staff and to help define the program performance measures.

Challenges:

Lack of a client tracking system and paper forms make it difficult to describe and report the population that CDHD MCH programs serve. Staff developed program specific databases and spreadsheets to help with this issue. CDHD staff will continue to explore electronic records as a method to improve documentation and the reporting of outcome measures. * New reimbursement rates fail to pay for the cost of this service.

